can have maximum 12 and minimum 4 Directors.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) For foreign travel of Chairman ITPO, approval of Commerce Ministry is required;

(e) The tours are carefully selected and undertaken, depending upon the requirements, with the approval of Ministry of Commerce.

(f) No, Sir.

Colachal Port in Kanyakumari

@1508. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to make the Colachal Port in Kanyakumari as a Free Port as per the decision of the Exports Committee which visited the port recently ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and by when the decision will be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Free Port Advisory Committee has recommended the location of a Free Port in Goa. Colachal in Tamilnadu is one of locations considered by the Advisory Committee for this purpose. Inter-Ministerial and Inter-Governmental, consultations on the report of the Committee are underway but no time frame can be indicated within which a decision is likely to be taken.

Export of Rice

1509. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has assured that Non-Basmati rice will not be exported; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to implement this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Government has decided that only super fine varieties of non-basmati rice are allowed to be exported subject to Minimum Export Price of US $ 250 per Metric Tonne.

Lifting of minimum export price on rice exports

1510. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to lift the minimum export price (MEP) restrictions on rice exports; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agricultural Exports

1511. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

@Previously Unstarred Question 1263, transferred from the 5th May, 1993.

(a) the agricultural products that is being exported by the country;

(b) the countries where exports are made;

(c) the foreign exchange that was earned during the year 1992-93;

(d) whether export of agricultural products has picked up following the announcement of the new Export-Import policy;

(e) whether he has assured the farmers that the Dunkel proposals under GATT negotiations will not affect the Indian farmers; and

(f) the main features of the Dunkel proposals in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The major items are spices, deoiled cakes, tobacco, cashew, cotton, rice, meat, fruits and vegetables and sugar etc.;

(b) The major destinations are the countries in the Middle-East, South-East Asia, USA and Europe.

(c) The total foreign exchange earned from agricultural exports (excluding cotton) during 1992-93 is provisionally estimated at about US $ 1988 million.

(d) The performance of agricultural products has generally been very satisfactory and is expected to further improve pursuant to the changes made in the Policy.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) International trade in agriculture is distorted by the competitive subsidisation of exports of agricultural commodities by some industrialised countries. Some of these countries also heavily subsidise production.

The Dunkel proposals require reduction of subsidies on production and exports, and thus create export opportunities for efficient producers. Analysis shows that the Dunkel proposals would create no problems for our agricultural policies in the short and medium terms. Government has sought changes, improvements and understandings to ensure that there are no problems in the long term also.

ASSOCHAM REQUEST TO ENACT COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAW

@1512. SHRI KISHAN KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has urged Government to enact comprehensive industrial relations law in tune with the new Industrial policy;

(b) If so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the ASSOCHAM; and

(d) if so, the details of changes, Government propose to make in the industrial relations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) Certain suggestions for amending various provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Trade Unions Act 1926 in the context of the new industrial policy were made in the Seminar organised by the ASSOCHAM in june 1992 on the subject of new industrial policy. Specific proposals for amending the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 and Trade Union Act, 1926 based

@Previously unstarred Question 454, transferred from 29th April, 1993.